



MONTGOMERY COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION

Public Meeting of April 8, 2014

Minutes

IN ATTENDANCE:

Commissioners:	Kenita V. Barrow, Chair Mark L. Greenblatt, Vice-Chair Claudia Herbert
Staff Member:	Robert W. Cobb, Chief Counsel Erin E. Chu, Program Manager I
Member of the Public	Gordon Klang

Item 1. The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m.

Item 2. The Commission reviewed the agenda for the meeting and approved moving an item concerning the Commission on Common Ownership Communities from the administrative agenda to the Public Meeting agenda.

Item 3. The minutes from the 3/11/14 meeting were approved as presented.

Item 4. The Commission approved the draft of a letter to the County Council concerning the legislative proposal concerning financial disclosure, with minor edits.

Item 5. Erin Chu updated the Commission on the status of financial disclosure submissions for the 2013 Annual filing season.

Item 6. Robert Cobb told the Commission that he had contacted the Director of Human Resources about Ethics Commission involvement in orientation sessions for new employees and that the Director, after discussing the matter with staff, decided to allow Ethics Commission staff to at the County's bi-weekly orientation sessions. The first

appearance was on April 7, and Cobb presented a 10 minute overview on ethics and conduct expectations for new County employees.

Item 7. Cobb provided an overview of the CCOC issue, recapping how the Commission had sent a letter to the CCOC addressing the apparent inconsistencies between CCOC practice and the Public Ethics Law as regards volunteer panel chairs being allowed to represent clients before other CCOC hearing panels. The Commission discussed the response of the CCOC and found that the CCOC's positions on the application of 19A-12 were not persuasive. The Commission then considered whether the proposed legislative solution offered by the CCOC was something the Commission would support, be neutral on, or oppose. The Commission decided that it would oppose the legislative solution because it was troubled by the apparent conflict of interest panel chairs would have in representing clients before other CCOC panels. Cobb is to prepare a response to the CCOC that communicates the Commission's guidance and position on the issues.

Mr. Gordon Klang who attended the meeting as a member of the public, communicated his views on the subject, including his belief that persons other than attorneys can serve as panel chairs.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert W. Cobb".

Robert W. Cobb